The background of the cover is a photograph of several soldiers in full chemical warfare protection suits, including gas masks and hooded ponchos, standing in a sandy field. In the background, there are green military tents and a traditional Japanese torii gate. Overlaid on the top center is a blue graphic of a torii gate with a stylized eagle emblem in the middle.

Torii Teller

Marine Corps Air Station
Iwakuni, Japan

Vol. 45 No. 6
Feb. 18, 2000

Our cover:

MCRES pgs 6-7

Inside:

MCAAT inspection pg 3

Staying Marine benefits you, Corps

Editor's Note: The following is an open letter from Lt. Gen. Frank Libutti, Commander, Marine Forces Pacific, to all MARFORPAC first-term Marines approaching the expiration of their current contracts.

Marines,

The Marine Corps is challenged with re-enlisting a higher percentage of first-term Marines this fiscal year than we have ever needed to re-enlist before. There are many complicated reasons why this is so – the bottom line is the future of our enlisted force structure, promotions and assignment opportunities depend on our meeting our first-term re-enlistment requirements this year.

So, what does this mean to you? Understandably, you are concerned about your situation and your future. As your commander, I ask that you do one thing when contemplating that future. Go somewhere quiet, where

... Marines stay for the same reasons they became Marines in the first place.

you won't be disturbed, and ask yourself, "Why did I join the Corps?" Could it have been:

☑ To see if you had what it takes. Few are good enough to earn the title, "Marine."

☑ To do something you knew you could be proud of ... something to earn the respect of your family and friends.

☑ To strike out on your own ... to do something challenging where you held your success or failure in your own hands.

There are many reasons young men and women choose to become Marines. If your reasons were among the above, you have accomplished those goals. So where do you go from here? Have you thought about new, greater challenges and goals for yourself? As Marines progress in rank, responsibilities and challenges also

see **MARINE** Page 9

Resident was 'just what doctor ordered'

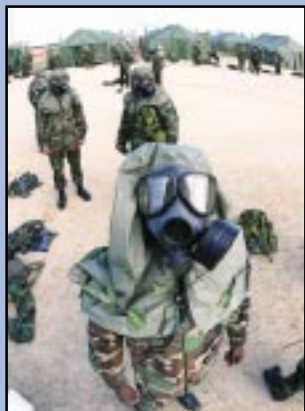
Dear Editor,

Last week I took a little leave to complete my "honey do" work list from Christmas and New Years. On that list, besides putting away decorations, were various automotive things i.e., oil change, spark plug change, air filter change, antifreeze change, and CV boot change. I had no problem procuring the parts; Pete at the Service Station was a great help. But when it came to accomplishing all of these tasks with my limited automotive background, the Auto Hobby Shop Supervisor, Larry

(I don't know his last name), was the reason I managed to get it done with relative ease. What can I say except that Larry was just what the doctor ordered to ensure I did the jobs timely and efficiently. He didn't do the tasks for me, but he knew just how to direct me to what needed to be done, oversee what I was doing, and help anyone else out who needed it. Did I mention that at the time I was doing all this work, the other bays were all full with vehicles and owners doing some of the same things and receiving the same instruction and advice I was getting

from Larry? I marveled at how he could go from one bay to another and one job to another and still maintain total situational awareness of what was going on around him. I must have thanked Larry five to 10 times that day for all his help. But to be honest I don't think you can thank a man like Larry enough. He is a total professional who knows his job and works well with people. I just wanted to say thanks again, Larry, you make me proud to be a resident of this air station.

/s/ Capt. Walter 'Chip' Hibner III



Our Cover

Lance Cpls. Hilton Wise (front), Seth Tomana and Robert Moffitt, MWSS-171 combat engineers, are outfitted in MOPP gear during the Marine Combat Readiness Evaluation System. See Page 6-7 for story. (photo by LCpl. Richard Longhi)

Torii Teller

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Combat Correspondent	LCpl. Kurt Fredrickson

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News Briefs

Commissary

The Commissary will be closed Tuesday in observance of Presidents' Day. The commissary will resume regular working hours Wednesday.

Poster/Essay Contest

In honor of Black History Month the air station is sponsoring a poster and essay contest. The contest is open to all students from first through 12th grades, through Feb. 28. The topic is Why is Black History Month important to me?

Essays are to be hand written or typed and double spaced. Entries must be submitted to the Station Equal Opportunity Advisor, Bldg. 360, Rm. 10-A on the second floor by Saturday. For details call MSgt. Michael McNeal at 253-5314 or SSgt. Michelle Smith at 253-5234.

Base Passes

The Provost Marshal is currently reviewing all passes issued by that office. During this process, each pass will be validated to ensure proper time and dates are annotated, and that the time allocated for the pass is not excessive. All residents are reminded that should they sponsor a guest aboard the air station, they are responsible for that person's conduct at all times. While some passes allow unescorted access of the guest (student passes, etc.) this does not give them the authorization to use MCCS facilities without the physical presence of the sponsor. Violations of this may result in the revocation of the student pass and/or revocation of the sponsor's privilege of having unescorted passes issued to guests.

OHA receipts must be turned in

by **LCpl. Kurt Fredrickson**
Torii Teller Staff

Marines, Sailors and government service civilians living off base must turn in their utility receipts each month to the station Comptroller Office in order for the station and Marine Corps to be reimbursed by the Japanese government.

The Japanese government provides back to the Marine Corps a reimbursement that goes to appropriations for military pay and allowances. Refunds from Sailor's receipts go back to Navy pay and allowances. Reimbursements for GS civilians who live off base in Iwakuni goes back to the station and gets put back into their labor dollars, according to Michne.

Individuals who turn in their receipts on time will not have to pay the 3-5 percent consumption tax. A list of DoD employees who have returned receipts will be sent to the utility company exempting them from the tax.

Names of service members who do not turn in their receipts will be sent

to their commanding officer, Michne said.

Other more severe consequences may occur if the service member or civilian does not turn in the receipts after their name has been released.

"We cannot stop off-base housing allowance to military members, however, they can be charged. We can write up a letter that goes in their service record book, a charge sheet or a page 11 entry," said Staff Sgt. Don Michne, H&HS, station comptroller chief. "Living quarters allowance, which is given to the GS civilians, is stoppable. It's not a right it's a privilege."

Those who have old receipts dated after March 1999, can still turn them in. The Japanese fiscal year ends in March and all receipts for the previous year must be turned in. The Comptroller Office can assist anyone who has lost their receipts by calling the utility company. Anyone needing assistance dealing with their receipts can call Staff Sgt. Michne or Eiko Hori at the station Comptroller Office at 253-5671.

Station units fare well during MCAAT

by **SSgt. Michelle Smith**
Press Chief

Members of the Marine Corps Administrative Analysis Team West arrived on station Feb. 4 as part of their Formal Analysis visit. The 16-person team split into two groups of eight members each, with one group inspecting units here and eight members traveling to Misawa, Yokosuka and Mt. Fuji Japan to inspect units there.

According to Lt. Col. Theodore Devlin, MCAAT West officer-in-charge, "the mission of the team is to ensure the well-being of Marines by providing commanders and their staffs with education and instruction in Marine Corps policies and proce-

dures which affect administration and pay and allowance.

"Our mission is to also identify and assist in resolving problem areas and recommend such actions as may be necessary for improvements in the administrative and financial function inherent in Marine Corps organizations," Devlin said.

To accomplish this with the least amount of stress to unit personnel, the team conducts a Mobile Training Visit six to nine months before the official analysis to teach classes, provide guidance and conduct an abridged analysis.

"We don't give out the answers; we inform units of problems areas and give them the opportunity to find a

Air station civil service hiring process explained

by Human Resource Office
MCAS Iwakuni Japan

The employment process for civil service appropriated fund positions at MCAS Iwakuni is very competitive. According to the Civilian Human Resources Office staff, they may receive up to 10 applications for each vacancy. Unfortunately, not all applicants will meet the U.S. Office of Personnel Management qualification requirements for the position. Those applicants who meet the basic qualifications are referred to the selecting official for consideration.

"The CHRO is not responsible for hiring decisions; this responsibility rests with the supervisor or manager over the position," said Gary Gilmour, head Staffing/Classification Section.

The selecting official is entitled to select or non-select any candidate. Personal interviews of referred candidates may be held at the selecting official's option. The selecting official may interview all, any, or none of the referred candidates, Gilmour said.

Even though some family members may have hiring preference over non-family members and non-veterans, the air station is unable to guarantee employment for all family members who seek it. There are approximately 130 APF positions at Iwakuni, the majority of which are of a professional or technical nature. Because most APF jobs have technical requirements many family members are unable to be placed into an APF position. Family members should also seek non-appropriated fund employment with the Marine Corps Community Services department.

What jobs might I qualify for?

Like any other employer, the federal government expects its employees to be well qualified for the jobs they hold. Even though CHRO refers candidates that meet the basic qualifications, selecting officials often times opt to continue looking for candidates with greater qualifications.

The United States Office of Personnel Management has published qualification standards to help assure that Federal employees are, indeed, well qualified. Whatever your background has been, the chances are that you meet the basic qualification requirements for many different jobs, and perhaps you may be highly qualified for others.

Two kinds of experience

General Experience is defined as work that indicates the ability to acquire the particular knowledge, skills and abilities needed to perform the duties of the position to

be filled. Generally speaking, the following applies:

Grade Experience required

GS-2	3 months of general experience
GS-3	6 months of general experience
GS-4	1 year of general experience

Specialized experience is defined as experience that equipped the applicant with the particular knowledge, skills and abilities to successfully perform the duties of the position, and is experience typically in or related to the work of the position to be filled. Generally speaking, at the GS-5 level and above, one year of specialized experience at the next lower grade level is required. If you have been in the job market for awhile and have accumulated a fruitful work history, you may qualify for jobs even without a college degree. Except for certain professional jobs, college credentials are not necessary. The nature of your specialized experience is what counts.

Experience substituted for education.

Depending on the position, you may qualify for the position based on education. As a general rule, the following applies:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Education Level Required</u>
GS-2	HS diploma or equivalent
GS-3	1 year above HS
GS-4	2 years above HS
GS-5	Bachelor Degree or equivalent
GS-7	1 full year of graduate education
GS-9	Master's or equivalent
GS-11	Ph.D. or equivalent

Qualifying with a combination of experience and education

In some cases, education and experience can be combined to meet the stated qualification requirement. For example: The position to be filled is a payroll clerk, GS-4. An applicant has eight months of qualifying experience and 20 semester hours of college. The applicant meets 67 percent of the required experience and 33 percent of the required education. The applicant meets 100 percent of the total requirements and is qualified for the position.

The CHRO, located in building 360, offers assistance in helping family members secure employment after arrival on station. The CHRO offers a monthly briefing on employment procedures that is open to all family members. For details call Jean Prado at 253-6828 or the Career Resource Management Center at 253-6439.

New protective suit holds up longer

by Sgt. Ronna M. Weyland
MCB Quantico, Va.

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, VA. — The increased threat of chemical and biological weapons has triggered the need for a more efficient protective suit for today's Marine. Therefore, a new improved suit featuring reduced heat strain, enhanced durability and machine washability has been introduced to the joint services.

"We needed a different kind of suit that we could use in the desert environment," said Doug Bryce, program manager, Marine Corps Systems Command. "The charcoal suit was very heavy and very bulky."

The new overgarment is a two-piece, lightweight front-opening garment that can be worn as an overgarment or as a primary uniform worn over personal underwear.

Bryce said the new suit is more comfortable and induces less heat strain on the individual wearing the overgarment.

"One of the biggest areas for contamination was around the neck,"

said Bryce. With this in mind, a hood was added to the suit.

In addition to added protection and comfort, the suit's sustained protection period is increased by 15 days over its predecessor. The new suit provides 45 days of protection and can be laundered once a week for hygiene purposes. Suits can only be reused once after contamination.

Another added convenience of the overgarment is all services will have the same suit. This will help logistically, since the suits will no longer have to be kept separate. During past joint operations, a separate supply of protective suits was needed for each service.

The JSLIST overgarment is currently being used in the Air Force and Navy. The suit will not be fielded in the Marine Corps until the current Saratoga suit wears out, because they are both similar in features.

The efficiencies received from the new suit have helped the Department of Defense reduce a 12 million overgarment supply requirement to 4.4 million.



photo by Steve Bohnstedt

Battelle Memorial Institute employee Christopher Lloyd models the new MOPP gear.

Mud, cold, MC

**by LCpl. Kurt Fredrickson
Torii Teller Staff**

It is an environment where starched uniforms cease to exist, spit-shined boots are a dull memory, and the wind and cold compete to break you down. The field, whether it is in Korea or at Penny Lake, continually proves to be a challenge.

More than 300 Marines and Sailors from MWSS-171 went to the field Jan. 4-11 to complete the annual Marine Combat Readiness Evaluation System at Penny Lake field.

The Marines were evaluated in the areas of engineering, Nuclear, Biological and Chemical defense and decontamination, motor transport convoy operations and refueling procedures.

"The MCRES is an evaluation to see if we can take care of ourselves at war," said 2nd Lt. Tashanna

Garcia, MWSS-171 field exercise camp commandant.

Areas inspected received very good reports, according to Garcia. "The inspectors said they had not seen a more motivated crowd than the Marines of '171," she said.

Marines from many different military occupational specialties joined together to support different contingencies such as the security force that guarded the convoy.

"I feel it's a good thing because you don't know who you're going to war with," said LCpl. Tory Threadgill, MWSS-171 heavy equipment operator. "We might as well get used to training with everyone."

Marines' NBC training put them in all four levels of Mission-Oriented Protective Posture gear over a three-day period.



Corporal Marco Avila, MWSS-171 heavy equipment mechanic, helps set up one of the more than 30 tents that would house Marines and Sailors during the week long exercise.



Marines from MWSS-171, take cover during a simulated air attack Jan. 8. Realism was a key part of the training.



Hospitalman Jesee Wood, MWSS-171 field medic, and Cpl. John Sherman (right), MWSS-171 embedded medical technician, demonstrate medical techniques of inserting a needle when giving

PRESS for 171

Other training scenarios included conduct of law and order on internal camp fights, fuel spills, a mock fire and a riot by hungry refugees trying to gain access to the camp at night. Marines had the chance to use force to restrain those who became hostile during the riot. The crash crew P-19 truck sprayed down the rioting crowd in the 30-degree night air with its roof mounted hose.

With temperatures in the 20s' and 30s' and a snowfall of more than 2 inches, Marines had to prepare for the cold.

"They received cold weather training before we went out there," said Garcia. "The first few days it was cold, and the Marines were ready to get things going. Morale was high, and I think the young Marines had a good time."



**Corpsman, uses an apple to show
Mark NCO for engineers division,
MWSS-171 field corpsman, the
g shots Feb. 8.**



**Corporal Anthony Chavarria, MWSS-171 supply warehouse clerk, walks past
concertina wire and tents that make up a portion of the MWSS-171 field camp.**

photos by LCpl. Kurt Fredrickson

Bringing black history to life

by GySgt.M.A. Zeid
USMC Reserves

History affects everyone and a small group of individuals are dedicated to educating the air station community on just how black history does affect everyone.

The African American Historical Society, founded in 1990, hosts several celebrations to give residents here the chance to learn more about the historical role Black Americans had on its history and today's society.

One example is the Juneteenth Celebration, which commemorates the landing of Union troops in Galveston, Texas on June 19th, 1865 and the freeing of the slaves in Texas two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed into law. While Juneteenth was originally a Southwestern regional celebration, since 1980, when it became a Texas state holiday, the celebration has grown in popularity. Even the Henry Ford Museum and the Smithsonian Institution have sponsored Juneteenth celebrations. Now, the air station also celebrates this significant historical event thanks to the work of the AAHS.

The Historical Society also sponsors the annual Kwanzaa festivities each December. "Kwanzaa is an end of the year celebration that reflects on the past year's accomplishments," said Gilbert D. Avery, the current president of AAHS.

But the Historical Society is much more than a group of people hosting a few events, it is a place where people can learn, according to Avery. "It is open to all air station residents, regardless of race, who have an interest in black history. It gives the community the knowledge of the contributions of African-Americans to society."

Avery explained the society holds monthly meetings where they discuss one historical person and one current event. Discussions focus on what they can do to become more involved and improve social conditions which lead to problems. They also have guests who have special knowledge to visit and talk about general interest topics such as health issues or financial investments. Furthermore, members exchange web site information and books on several topics. In short, as Avery pointed out, it's a great place to learn.

The Society is sponsoring a Black History Month Banquet, Feb. 28, 6:30-9 p.m. at Club Iwakuni. The banquet is a family oriented function and the price of the tickets is \$12. To purchase tickets interested persons can contact Avery at 253-6963 or Master Sgt. William Peden at 253-4270.

For those who are interested in learning more about the African American Historical Society, they can contact Avery at his home at 253-2816 in the evenings or call Peden, the vice president, at home in the evenings at 253-2864.

Feature

Snow Capped

Lance Cpl. Erik Forman, VMFA-212 plane captain, clears snow from one of the Lancers F/A-18C Hornets. An unusually large 2.8 inches of snow blanketed the air station Feb. 8., causing station personnel to have a little extra time to get to work, morning school busses not to run, school delays and slippery roads.



photo by LCpl. Kurt Fredrickson

Japanese banks world leader in customer service

by GySgt. M.A. Zeid
USMC Reserves

Japan is a world economic power and Japanese banks are world leaders in the financial markets. Yet, the most impressive thing about them is their customer service.

For example, if a person is busy, out of money and has no time to go to the bank, it's not a problem. In Japan, many bankers make house calls. With most banks, about 20 percent of the tellers are traveling bank agents who visit between 30 to 50 places every day taking care of companies' and their employees banking needs.

This service is extremely impor-

tant since automatic teller machines at Japanese banks are open only for limited hours. Most ATMs close at 7 p.m. and aren't open on holidays.

These house calls are a bit slower since bank transactions usually take one or two days to complete, but it is very popular with the Japanese. For those in a hurry, they can always go to the bank, where once again the key word is service.

In Japanese banks the teller windows are labeled with which services they offer. For example, one window is for foreign exchange, one is for paying bills, another is for new accounts, while another is for deposits and withdrawals, etc.

One interesting thing, there is no

window four in banks since four in Japanese sounds like death and therefore is considered unlucky.

It is a common practice for bankers to give gifts such as household products throughout the year to their customers.

When people go to the bank, they go to the window for the service they need and fill out a form. Then they sit down on one of the sofas or chairs in the lobby to read a magazine or watch television until their name is called. Then they go up and finish their transaction. Total time at the teller window is fairly short. As for the waiting, it depends on how busy the bank is.

Another common practice is to have banks pay customers' bills. Many customers have accounts where funds are taken from directly to pay bills every month. The customers fill out a simple form and from that time, bills are paid automatically. The customers still receive receipts in the mail, but they don't have to do anything.

However, all of this great service costs customers in the form of very low interest rates. The average interest rates on an ordinary savings account is only one or two percent. Therefore, most Japanese people use their ordinary savings accounts the same way Americans use checking accounts: to pay bills and for spending money. For saving money, most Japanese put their money into time deposits which are like CD's in American banks.

In many ways Japanese banks are the same as American banks since they both offer a wide variety of services. The noticeable difference however is in their customer service.



photo by GySgt. M.A. Zeid

A customer inquires about opening a new account at a bank.

Opinion/Editorial

MARINE from Page 2

become greater. A Marine's first enlistment instills the fundamental qualities of leadership, initiative, courage, poise, self-confidence, self-reliance, self-direction and self-discipline. Second and subsequent enlistments hone those qualities into razor sharp tools that will enable you to go anywhere and do anything.

There are many incentives for re-enlisting. Some are tangible and some are not. There are many ways to pursue a higher education while you are on active duty,

continuing to draw full pay and allowances. The 4.8 percent pay raise we received on Jan. 1 was the largest military pay raise in 18 years; more raises are planned for the future. Marines don't stay for the paycheck, though – Marines stay for the same reasons they became Marines in the first place.

The choice is ultimately your own. Your decision to stay Marine will benefit you and strengthen our Corps. But whatever path you choose, never forget, you are a Marine forever. Semper Fi!

/s/ Frank Libutti

Keep families informed with hometown news release

compiled by
Torii Teller Staff

Marines and Sailors here have a way to keep their families and friends informed of important events in their careers such as promotions and awards.

The Fleet Home Town News Release form is used by civilian news media to recognize the achievements of service members.

"The program is a great way for the Marine Corps to let moms and dads back home know how their sons and daughters are doing and what they are accomplishing," said Maj. Tim Keefe, station public affairs officer.

The first step in the process is to bring a copy of the promotion war-

rant or certificate to the Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 360 Rm. 7, on the second floor. A picture will be taken and a Fleet Town Home News Release form provided to be completed.

The following are some keys to completing the form.

☒ **Name** - Ensure your name is spelled correctly and is legible. How your name is spelled is how it will be printed.

☒ **Rank** - Make sure you include your rank.

☒ **Social Security Number** - Your social security number is mandatory and is used to track the form through the system. A member's SSN is not released to the media and is only used in casualty searches.

☒ **Gender** - Since many names are

not male or female specific, this block is important.

☒ **Event** - Check the appropriate box or give the complete details of the event. Extra paper can be attached.

☒ **MOS** - Do not use numerical designator, spell it out. (e.g. cook, administrative clerk, etc.)

☒ **Next of Kin** - This person is a very important element of the process. Ensure that both parent's first and last names, relationship to service member, street address, city, state and zip code is correct.

☒ **Present Unit** - Spell out the unit, base and location

☒ **Privacy Act Statement** - The form must be signed to be released. Your signature permits the information except for your SSN to be release to your hometown newspaper.

News

MCAAT from Page 3

solution," Devlin said.

The combination of the analysis and visit allows the team to focus 50 percent of their time teaching and 50 percent analyzing.

"Whether it's through electronic classes by way of the MCAAT web page or one-on-one instruction at an analysis site, our mission is to expand the knowledge of all administrators and

disbursing personnel at more than 300 Marine Corps units," said Devlin.

"The Mobile Training Visit team was last here in October," said Gunnery Sgt. Willie Perry, Jr., H&HS administrative chief.

The cutoff for units being capable and non-capable is 90 percent, with a desired goal of 96 percent, said Master Sgt. Mario Hernandez, MCAAT West senior enlisted member.

"The air station units did well. Everyone passed," Hernandez said.

The units inspected were H&HS, CSSD-36 and the station Finance Office.

The Finance Office received a fidelity analysis, which was an ungraded inspection. The analysis provided a review of the office standard operating procedures, desktop procedures, timeliness of the work being processed and office security measures.

"The Marines and civilians here are doing a great job," said 1st Lt. Quentin Vaughn, air station finance officer.

The feeling of a job well done is shared by all.

"I feel we did an excellent job," said Gunnery Sgt. John Vasquez, CSSD-36 administrative chief.

"The MTV in October provided us with a checklist of items to look out for - which helped me a lot," Vasquez said.

"Everyone did well. But we were very impressed with the operations at H&HS. They performed so well that they scored

"The bottom line is when a unit does well, the individual Marine is being taken care of."

Lt. Col. Theodore Devlin

in the top 5 percent for more than 300 units Corps wide," said Hernandez. "The Marines are motivated and eager to learn. They constantly ask questions and were genuinely interested in the answers. It is a good feeling when we arrive at a unit with people like this. It's obvious that they worked hard," Hernandez said.

Their hard work is evident daily from the immediate response to the bell when a customers enters their office to the extra hours put in to ensure that the mission is accomplished.

"H&HS Marines should take pride in their Administrative Section," said Hernandez. "When units excel, it is evident that there is care from the top down."

"The bottom line is when a unit does well, the individual Marine is being taken care of," said Devlin.

"I'm proud of my section," Perry said. "There's no secret — the Marines get paid for what they do, and they aim to give the Corps its money worth."



photos by LCpl. Kurt Fredrickson

MAG-12 outdoes H&HS 25-21

by LCpl. Kurt Fredrickson
Torii Teller Staff

Members of the MAG-12 team edged by H&HS after going neck and neck 25-21 throughout the station's first Iwakuni Icebowl football game on the Main Parade Field Feb. 11.

Toward the end of the first half the score was in the favor of MAG-12 but H&HS gained possession. With four minutes left in the half, H&HS's Luther Gibbs threw a 35-yarder to Chauncey Lovely to bring the score to 6-6 at halftime.

After halftime, MAG-12 took possession of the ball and brought the score to 13-6. It looked as though they were getting a lead on H&HS, but H&HS gained control of the ball and scored numerous

times turning the tide in their favor 13-20.

The battle continued with possession of the ball constantly changing. "The penalties and mental errors made mistakes for us," said Luther Gibbs IV, H&HS team coach.

In the last quarter MAG-12 locked on and scored more than what they needed with a long pass to the end zone where it was met by the hands of a MAG-12 receiver bringing the score to 25-21 for the win.

"They kept fighting to the end," said Robert Sanford, MAG-12 coach. "The team played together and didn't give up. Time was against us and we needed a big play."

TOP: H&HS's Francis Boardway Jr. dives for the flag of a MAG-12 team member during the station's first Icebowl football game Feb. 11.

ABOVE: Members of both teams tangle to gain possession of the ball.



You don't have to be Wayne Gretzky or Katarina Witt to enjoy ...

Kudamatsu Skating Rink

by Cpl. Michael Wiener
Torii Teller Staff

I recently decided I needed a lesson in humility, so I grabbed my car keys and Mark, my son, and headed south.

Information, Tours and Travel were more than happy to oblige my quest for humbleness, issuing tickets, map and specific directions.

After winding around the Japanese countryside on Route 2 for an hour or so, we arrived at the "classroom" – Kudamatsu Skating Rink.

In my life, I've been ice skating three times, this trip would be my fourth. Figuring no one there would recognize me, Kudamatsu would be a perfect venue to get my fill of bumps and bruises.

Even before stepping onto the ice,

though, I had my first "fall." For 400 Yen, anyone can rent a pair of ice skates. However, it took three pairs to find the correct size. Although the attendants have a size translation chart to easily find the Japanese equivalent to American sizes, my feet had somehow grown two sizes from the time I walked through the door.

Even though the rink provides training skates (and helmets) for the younger skaters, they also have sizes to fit the youngest, smallest feet. Mark, who doesn't realize I'm training him to be a future NHL All-star, wore the real deal.

With our shoes safely secured in rental lockers (100 yen), we took to the ice. Skaters of all sizes, shapes and colors moved in a counter-clockwise circle around the rink.

There were board-huggers and show-offs, slow-movers and speed demons, serious and easygoing. Some held hands to be romantic. Others held hands to keep from falling.

After navigating our way around the ice a couple of times, we grabbed a specially designed chair for the ice. Once he settled in, Mark got a free ride, and I was able to skate without fear of falling. Then, being the courteous guy he is, he returned the favor pushed me – for 20 feet anyway.

Shortly thereafter, we realized time had been going much faster than we had. Before leaving for the day, however, we warmed up with hot chocolate from one of the many vending machines.

We left the rink free of bruises but full of memories. I only fell one time, and my landing was a soft one. Seeing me in great peril, Mark broke my fall – not that he had much choice.

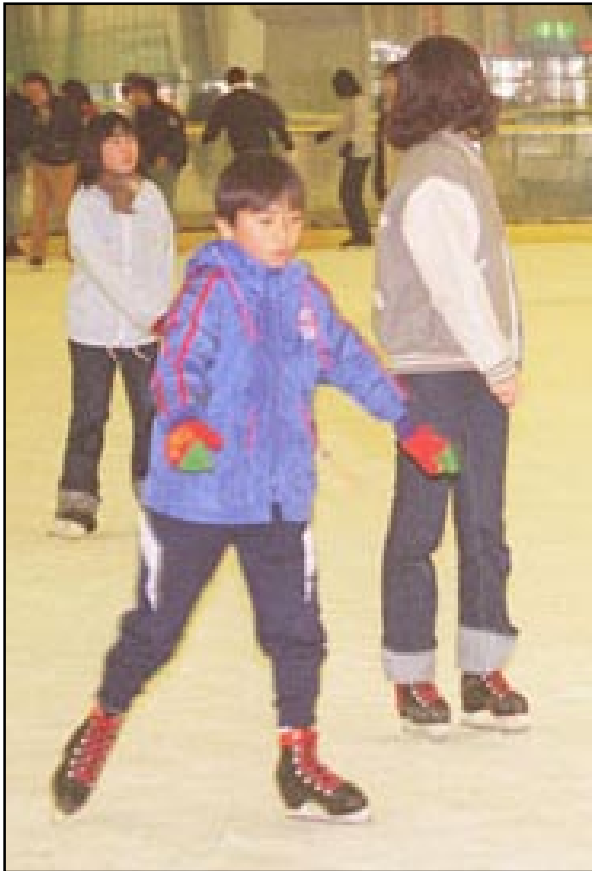


photo by cpl. Michael Wiener

Skaters take a whirl around the Kudamatsu Skating Rink. Safety gear is provided for those participants who may be more affected by gravity than others.

Sports Briefs

Basketball Tourney

The annual "Make Real the Dream" basketball competition takes place in the Main Gym through Sunday. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information call 253-5777.

SCUBA Night

Events are planned for divers, their non-diving "buddies" and children ages 8-12 (with parental consent) today, 6-10 p.m. Certified open-water divers may also participate. For more information call 253-6058. There is a fee for some events.

Delaware Relay

Aquatics will hold a relay race Monday in the Main Gym pool. Two-person teams of swimmers and kayakers can record their times with the lifeguard any time during operating hours. Winners in each age group win prizes.

Driving Range Opens

The Torii Pines Driving Range has reopened after completion of typhoon damage repairs. Located on the golf course near the Sakura Theater, the range is open 5:30-11 nightly. For more information call 253-3402.

Swim Meet

United States military and JMSDF swimmers are invited to participate in individual and team events March 24. Team rosters are due March 10. For details call 253-5777.

Over 30 Basketball

The over 30 Basketball season begins March 6. Coaches meet Feb. 29, 10 a.m. in the Main Gym. Play is open to SOFA-status players age 30 and older.

Friday

9:00 Sesame Street
 10:00 Blues Clues
 10:30 Kiana's Flex Appeal
 11:00 Oprah Winfrey Show (TV-14)
 12:00 NBC Nightly News
 12:30 Wheel of Fortune (TV-G)
 1:00 Port Charles (TV-14)
 1:25 Guiding Light (TV-14)
 2:00 General Hospital (TV-14)
 3:05 Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries
 3:30 Nightmare Ned
 4:00 Sister, Sister
 4:30 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch (TV-G)
 5:00 Jeopardy! (TV-G)
 5:30 Headline News
 6:00 Pacific Report
 6:33 CNN/SI
 7:00 King of the Hill (TV-PG)
 7:30 That '70s Show (TV-PG)
 8:00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (TV-PG)
 9:00 Law and Order (TV-14)
 10:00 Pacific Report
 10:35 Tonight Show w/Leno
 11:35 Late Show w/Letterman

Saturday

0:35 ESPNews
 1:05 Movies 'til Dawn
 Gorky Park (TV-PG)
 3:20 Movies 'til Dawn
 Off Limits (TV-PG)
 5:00 Today Show
 7:00 Barney and Friends
 7:30 Arthur (TV-Y)
 8:00 Brand Spanking New Doug
 8:30 Disney's Recess (TV-Y)
 9:00 Hey! Arnold (TV-Y)
 9:30 Goosebumps (TV-Y7)
 10:00 Nova
 11:00 This Old House
 11:30 California's Gold
 12:00 Navy/Marine Corps News
 12:30 NBA (TNT)
 3:00 Up Close with Gary Miller
 3:30 ESPNews
 4:00 WWF Superstars (TV-14)
 5:00 Entertainers
 6:00 Headline News
 6:30 ESPNews
 7:00 Beverly Hills, 90210 (TV-14)
 8:00 Melrose Place (TV-14)
 9:00 20/20 Friday
 10:00 Headline News
 10:30 ESPNews
 11:00 Saturday Night Live (TV-14)

Sunday

12:30 Motown Live (TV-G)
 1:30 Soul Train
 2:30 Storytellers (TV-PG)
 4:00 Friday Night
 4:30 Entertainers
 5:00 Headline News
 5:30 Hour of Power
 6:00 Creflo Dollar
 6:30 The Coral Ridge Hour
 7:00 Millennium: End or Beginning?
 7:30 Day of Discovery

8:00 Bananas in Pajamas
 8:30 Wishbone
 9:00 Wonderful World of Disney (TV-G)
 11:00 Wild Things (TV-PG)
 12:00 Headline News
 12:30 Army Newswatch
 1:00 NBA (NBC)
 Pistons at Jazz
 3:30 Winter X-Games Whiteout (ESPN2)
 4:00 Hercules: The Legendary Journeys (TV-PG)
 5:00 Computer Chronicles
 5:30 Wall Street Journal Report
 6:00 Headline News
 6:30 ESPNews
 7:00 Kids Say Darndest Things (TV-G)
 7:30 Home Improvement (TV-PG)
 8:00 Primetime Movie
 One Fine Day (TV-PG)
 10:00 Headline News
 10:30 Pensacola: Wings of Gold (TV-PG)
 11:30 Walker, Texas Ranger (TV-PG)

Monday

12:30 WWF Superstars (TV-14)
 1:30 America's Black Forum
 2:00 NASCAR Daytona 500 (CBS)
 6:00 PGA Golf (CBS)
 8:00 ESPN Magazine Sports Reporters
 8:30 WNBA Special: (ESPN2)
 9:00 Sesame Street
 10:00 Jim Henson's Animal Show
 10:30 Kiana's Flex Appeal
 11:00 Oprah Winfrey Show (TV-14)
 12:00 Headline News
 12:30 Wheel of Fortune (TV-G)
 1:00 Port Charles (TV-14)
 1:25 Guiding Light (TV-14)
 2:15 General Hospital (TV-14)
 3:05 Disney's Pepper Ann
 3:30 Bobby's World
 4:00 AFN Holiday Special
 And the Children Shall Lead (TV-PG)
 5:00 Jeopardy! (TV-G)
 5:30 Headline News
 6:00 Headline News
 6:33 CNN/SI
 7:00 60 Minutes
 8:00 The Drew Carey Show (TV-PG)
 8:30 Whose Line is it Anyway (TV-PG)
 9:00 The Practice (TV-14)
 10:00 Headline News
 10:35 Tonight Show w/Leno
 11:35 Late Show w/Letterman

Tuesday

0:35 ESPNews
 1:05 Movies 'til Dawn
 An American Story/
 AKA After the Glory
 2:55 Movies 'til Dawn
 Bound for Glory (TV-PG)
 5:00 Headline News
 5:30 ESPNews
 6:00 Today Show
 8:00 Headline News
 8:30 Showbiz Today

9:00 Sesame Street
 10:00 Bear in the Big Blue House (TV-Y)
 10:30 Co-Ed Training
 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (TV-14)
 12:00 NBC Nightly News
 12:30 Wheel of Fortune (TV-G)
 1:00 Port Charles (TV-14)
 1:25 Guiding Light (TV-14)
 2:15 General Hospital (TV-14)
 3:05 Spiderman: Animated Series
 3:30 Popular Mechanics for Kids
 4:00 Nick News
 4:30 Scholastic Sports America (TV-G)
 5:00 Jeopardy! (TV-G)
 5:30 Headline News
 6:00 Pacific Report
 6:33 CNN/SI
 7:00 Everybody Loves Raymond (TV-PG)
 7:30 Primetime Movie
 The Rock (TV-14)
 10:00 Pacific Report
 10:35 Tonight Show w/Leno
 11:35 Late Show w/Letterman

Wednesday

12:35 ESPNews
 1:05 Movies 'til Dawn
 The Age of Innocence (TV-PG)
 3:40 Movie 'til Dawn
 Frankenstein (1931) (TV-PG)
 5:00 Headline News
 5:30 ESPNews
 6:00 Today Show
 8:00 Headline News
 8:30 Showbiz Today
 9:00 Sesame Street
 10:00 Blues Clues
 10:30 Bodyshaping
 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show
 12:00 NBC Nightly News
 12:30 Wheel of Fortune (TV-G)
 1:00 Port Charles (TV-14)
 1:25 Guiding Light (TV-14)
 2:15 General Hospital (TV-14)
 3:05 Taz-Mania
 3:30 Darkwing Duck
 4:00 Power Rangers in Space (TV-Y7)
 4:30 City Guts (TV-Y7)
 5:00 Jeopardy! (TV-G)
 5:30 Headline News
 6:00 Pacific Report
 6:33 CNN/SI
 7:00 Smart Guy (TV-PG)
 7:30 Moesha (TV-PG)
 8:00 Party of Five (TV-14)
 9:00 Buffy the Vampire Slayer (TV-14)
 10:00 Pacific Report
 10:35 Tonight Show w/Leno
 11:35 Late Show w/Letterman

Thursday

0:35 ESPNews
 1:05 Movies 'til Dawn
 Bound for Glory (TV-PG)
 3:50 Movies 'til Dawn
 World's Scariest Police Chases 3
 5:00 Headline News
 5:30 ESPNews
 6:00 Today Show

8:00 Headline News
 8:30 Showbiz Today
 9:00 Sesame Street
 10:00 AFN Special
 44th Annual Grammy Awards (TV-Y)
 1:00 Port Charles (TV-14)
 1:25 Guiding Light (TV-14)
 2:15 General Hospital (TV-14)
 3:05 Animaniacs
 3:30 Batman (TV-Y7)
 4:00 Pokemon (TV-Y)
 4:30 Boy Meets World (TV-PG)
 5:00 Jeopardy! (TV-G)
 5:30 Headline News
 6:00 Pacific Report
 6:33 CNN/SI
 7:00 Dharma and Greg (TV-14)
 7:30 Two Guys, A Girl and a Pizza Place (TV-PG)
 8:00 Just Shoot Me (TV-14)
 8:35 Spin City (TV-PG)
 9:00 ER (TV-14)
 10:00 Pacific Report
 10:35 Tonight Show w/Leno
 11:35 Late Show w/Letterman

Friday

12:35 ESPNews
 1:05 Movies 'til Dawn
 Vertigo (TV-PG)
 3:30 Movies 'til Dawn
 The Fireball
 5:00 Headline News
 5:30 ESPNews
 6:00 Today Show
 8:00 Headline News
 8:30 Showbiz Today
 9:00 Sesame Street
 10:00 Blues Clues
 10:30 Kiana's Flex Appeal
 11:00 Oprah Winfrey Show (TV-14)
 12:00 NBC Nightly News
 12:30 Wheel of Fortune (TV-G)
 1:00 Port Charles (TV-14)
 1:25 Guiding Light (TV-14)
 2:00 General Hospital (TV-14)
 3:05 Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries
 3:30 Nightmare Ned
 4:00 Sister, Sister
 4:30 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch (TV-G)
 5:00 Jeopardy! (TV-G)
 5:30 Headline News
 6:00 Pacific Report
 6:33 CNN/SI
 7:00 King of the Hill (TV-PG)
 7:30 That '70s Show (TV-PG)
 8:00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (TV-PG)
 9:00 Law and Order (TV-14)
 10:00 Pacific Report
 10:35 Tonight Show w/Leno
 11:35 Late Show w/Letterman

Find additional TV
 schedules and sports
 teams names at
www.iwakuni.usmc.mil

**Movies****Sakura Theater****Bicentennial Man (PG-13)**

Rated PG-13 for language and some sexual content
 Feb. 18, 7 p.m.; Feb. 19, 4 p.m.; Feb. 20, 7 p.m.; Feb. 23, 7 p.m.

Rob Williams plays an android who is purchased as a household robot to perform menial tasks. His proud owners quickly learn that they don't have an ordinary robot as Williams begins to exhibit emotions and creative thought. Sam Neill, Oliver Platt and Embeth Davidtz co-star.

Anna and the King (PG-13)

Rated PG-13 for some intense violent sequences
 Feb. 18, 10 p.m.; Feb. 19, 7 p.m.; Feb. 21, 7 p.m.



Based on the diaries of Anna Leonowens, this film casts Jodie Foster as a British governess headed for Thailand to care for the children of the country's king.

played by Chow Yun-Fat. by the end of her stay, she's managed to touch the lives of both the children and their father.

Duece Bigalow (R)

Rated R for sexual content, language and crude humor
 Feb. 19, 10 p.m.; Feb. 20, 7 p.m.; Feb. 23, 7 p.m.



Rob Schneider stars as Deuce Bigalow, a down-on-his-luck guy who cleans fish tanks for a living. While fish-sitting for a debonair, world-class male escort, he mistakenly answers the business phone and becomes "Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo."

This schedule is submitted by the Sakura Theater and is subject to change. Any questions or comments can be directed to **MCCS** at 253-4003.

Iwakuni's Theaters**Kokusai:**

Feb. 18 - March 10
 "Anna and the King" - 10:30 a.m.,
 1:05 p.m., 3:45 p.m., 6:30 p.m.,
 (Sat. only) 9:10 p.m.

**New Central I:
New Central II:**

Feb. 18 - end of February
 "007 World is not Enough" -
 10:55 a.m., 1:20 p.m., 3:40 p.m.,
 6:25 p.m., (Sat. only) 8:50 p.m.

**New Central II:
Feb. 11-18**

"Joan of Arc" - 10:05 a.m.,
 3:25 p.m., (Sat. only) 8:45 p.m.,
 "Love of the Game" - 12:50 p.m.,
 6:10 p.m.

**New Central III:
Feb. 18 - March 17
No English Movies**

Local



Medical Clinic Health Promotions Tobacco Cessation Courses

Tobacco Cessation classes will be held Wednesday, Feb. 18, 23, 25, March 22, 24, 29 and 31. Courses are held in the clinic conference room, 10-11 a.m. Participants must attend all four sessions. For more information call 253-3266.

Controlling Cholesterol Course

A "Controlling Cholesterol Course" will be offered Feb. 24 and March 30, 10-11 a.m. in the Branch Medical Clinic conference room. This class will help participants understand what cholesterol is, how to reduce it and the importance of good nutrition and regular exercise. For more information call 253-3266.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous open meetings are held Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. and Thursdays and Sundays, 7 p.m. Closed meetings are held each Monday and Thursday, 11:30 a.m. and Tuesday at 7 p.m. All meetings are held in Bldg. 497, second floor. For more information call 43-4814.

Childbirth Education Program Five-week Series

A five-week-series class is offered to first time expectant parents during the third trimester who are interested in learning the basics about child birth. The class meets once a week for five weeks from 6:30-8:30 p.m. For more information call Cmdr. Lisa Craft at 253-2714.

Refresher Class

The Refresher Class is offered to mothers who want to "freshen up" on the skills covered in the five-week series. This class, offered once a month, covers such issues as delivery at a Japanese facility, labor and delivery and breathing techniques. For details call 253-2714.

Cub Scouts Blue and Gold Banquet

Cub Scouts Blue and Gold Banquet will be held Saturday, 6:30 p.m. in the M.C. Perry school cafeteria with a theme, "Turn Back the Clock." This is a family event and all family members and guests are invited to attend. This event is a pot luck dinner. Please come and support your fellow scout even if your child is not receiving an award. For more information call 253-3553 during working hours or 253-2989 after working hours.

New Baby Playgroup

Parents and their babies up to 12 months old are invited to join the playgroup Fridays, 10-11 a.m. in the E.D.I.S. playroom in M.C. Perry Elementary School. Topics will include growth and development, play and exercise, feeding, adjustment to parenthood and more.

The first group is scheduled March 3. For more information call 253-4562.

Civil Engineer/Seabee Ball

Celebrating the 133rd Anniversary of the Civil Engineer Corps and the 53rd Birthday of the U.S. Navy Seabees, a Millennium Birthday Ball will be held March 24 at Club Iwakuni's Ball Room. Tickets sales start Thursday at Bldg. 155. For more information call 253-5648/5638/3792 or 5084.

Japanese and American Society Japanese Conversation Classes

The Japanese and American Society offers Japanese conversation classes Mondays, 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. There is a fee. Anybody interested in joining the classes should call 253-4771.

Culture Festival

The Japanese and American Society will sponsor a Japanese Culture Festival March 5, 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. in the M.C. Perry school multipurpose room. Experience taiko drums, Japanese food and dances. For more information call 253-4771.

MOPS

Mothers of newborns to age 5 are encouraged to attend Mothers of Preschoolers, International. There is structured playtime/classroom activities for children as well as crafts and speakers for mothers. The MOPS meets every second and fourth Thursday of the month from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the Chapel Annex's multipurpose room during the M.C. Perry school year. Anytime M.C. Perry school is not in session, MOPS will not meet. For more information call Pam White at 253-2465.

Consignment Sales Shop

The Consignment Sales Shop, located on the second floor of Crossroads Mall, is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and Wednesdays, 4-7:30 p.m. The shop is part of the Enlisted Spouses Club and supports the community with donations and scholarships. Consignments and donations are accepted during operating hours or in the drop box after working hours. For more information call 253-4721.

Marine Corps Community Services L.I.N.K.S.

A Lifestyle, Information, Networking, Knowledge mentoring session takes place March 13-15. Child care is provided, and registration is requested. The L.I.N.K.S. assists spouses in adapting to the military way of life. For more information call 253-3754.

Playgroup

Playgroup is canceled until further notice.

Debt Management Seminar

The financial Management Program will hold a lunch-time debt management seminar Feb. 29, 11:45 a.m.-

12:45 p.m. Attendees may bring their lunch. For details call 253-6354.

Stress Management Seminar

Learn how to relax, avoid stressful situations and manage stress at a lunchtime seminar Tuesday, 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. in Bldg. 411 Rm. 216.

Talent Show

The "URA Star" talent contest takes place in the Sakura Theater Feb. 26, 7 p.m. A variety of acts, including comedians, singers and musicians are scheduled. The show is free and open to everyone. For more information call 253-6184.

MNPSP Baby Boot Camp

The Marine New Parent Support Program's Baby Boot Camp fourth session will be held Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in Bldg. 411, Rm. 127. This class is free and open to everyone. For details call 253-6553.

TAMP and TAP Seminar

A four-day seminar, which is scheduled Tuesday through Feb. 25, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. in Bldg. 411, Rm. 121, combines the Department of Defense mandatory pre-separation briefing (TAMP) and the Department of Labor job search seminar (TAP). Benefits, programs, services and entitlements available to separating military personnel and their families will be explained. Military personnel and their spouses are encouraged to attend as early as possible to enhance a smooth transition to civilian life. All personnel are required to attend no later than 90 days prior to discharge. For more information and to sign up call your unit Career Planner/Counselor or CRMC at 253-6439.

Family Child Care Orientation

Those interested in providing child care in their home should plan to attend a Family Child Care Orientation Tuesday-Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information call 253-4218.

Marine Corps Reserve Forces Briefing

The Marine Corps Reserve Forces Transition Recruiter briefs the air station Wednesday, 10-11:30 a.m. in Bldg. 411, Rm. 121. Individual appointments are available afterwards. Attendees should bring a copy of final discharge physical paperwork (SF-88 and -93). For more information call 253-6439.

Local and Federal Employment Workshop

The Local and Federal Employment Workshop, focusing on Iwakuni's local job market and application processes, takes place Feb. 28, 1-2:30 p.m. in Bldg. 411, Rm. 216. Hands-on instruction is provided to prepare computerized SF-171, OF-612, Federal Resume and KSA forms. Free child care is provided. Advanced sign-up is required. For more information call 253-6439 or stop by Bldg. 411, Rm. 201.

VA Representative Briefing

Veterans Administration counselor Jeff Kenney briefs the air station Tuesday-Wednesday on Department of Veterans' Affairs administered benefits. Active duty military, retirees, separated service members and family members are encouraged to attend. Sessions are Tuesday, 9:30-11:30 a.m. in community Services Bldg. 411,



Chapel's Weekly Services

Saturday

5:30 p.m. Catholic Mass (M.C. Perry Elementary School Gym)

Sunday

8:15 a.m. Liturgical Worship Service (Chapel Annex)
9 a.m. Catholic Mass (M.C. Perry Elementary School Gym)
10 a.m. Church of Christ Lay Leader Service (Chapel Annex, Rm. 103)
10:15 a.m. C.C.D. (Chapel Annex)
Gospel Sunday School (M.C. Perry Elementary School, Rm. 423B)
10:30 a.m. Protestant Divine Worship Service (M.C. Perry Elementary School Gym)
Gospel Divine Worship Service (M.C. Perry Elementary School Gym)
Latter Day Saint (Chapel Annex)

Friday

6 p.m. Jewish Shabat (Chapel Annex, Rm. 103)

Call 253-5218 for more information.

For information on Jewish Services call Mark Zeid at 082-231-4008 after 6 p.m. or call the Station Chapel.



Rm. 121 and Wednesday, 1-3 p.m. at Club Iwakuni Banquet Room upstairs. Advanced sign-up is not required. One-on-one appointments are also available Tuesday, 1-4:30 p.m. and Wednesday 8-11:30 a.m. at the CRMC. Call 253-6439 for details.

CRMC New Operating Hours

The Career Resource Management Center staff announces extended hours of operation. New hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Wednesday 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The CRMC offers military transition and spouse employment assistance.

Education



ESC Scholarship

The Enlisted Spouses' Club is offering a scholarship of \$250 to enlisted spouses registered in school. Stop by the Consignment Sales Shop or call Arlette Walls at 253-2637 for more information.

Test Schedule

Every Tuesday/Friday

- College Level Examination Program
- DANTES Subject Standardized Test
- Feb. 23 - Defense Language Aptitude Battery
- Defense Language Proficiency Test
- Feb. 24 - Armed Forces Classification Test
- Feb. 28 - Electronics Data Processing Test

All tests begin at 8 a.m. at Bldg. 411, Rm. 101. There is a fee for civilian personnel but not for military personnel. Call 253-3855 for more information.